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RESPONSE TO ST. LOUIS, MO. INQUIRIES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) partial test results from analyses conducted on leachates collected at the Krummrich Industrial Waste (Monsanto) Landfill in Sauget, Il., confirm earlier announced findings by Monsanto Chemical Company of the presence of certain types of dioxin in the leachates sampled.

Test results indicate that the forms and concentrations of dioxin and the closely related chlorinated compounds, furans, in the leachate do not present an immediate problem to area populations. The most serious form of dioxin(2,3,7,8-TCDD) was not detected in analyses. Testing was conducted down to the parts per trillion levels.

The Agency believes that further information is necessary to make a comprehensive assessment of the site. Additional analytical information on the collected samples should be available to U.S. EPA within the next 30 days.

The following information is available to respond to additional inquiries:

Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (dioxins) and polychlorinated dibenzo-p-furans (furans) were detected in concentrations ranging from 4 ppt to 2,669 ppt. The reading of 2,693 ppt in the type of dioxin detected...is not considered critical.

The analyses are being conducted at Wright State Univ.'s Brehm Laboratory.

The samples were collected in November 1980<sup>1</sup>. This is the second set of testing being conducted on samples collected at that time. The first set was tested to the "parts per billion" levels which did not detect dioxins. U.S. EPA's involvement began in July of 1981 in response to Illinois EPA's request for assistance.

Samples gathered in Suaget some three weeks ago were not taken from the Monsanto site; but, were from other locations in the area to assist U.S. EPA in evaluating what other problems in the area might be contributing to the site's condition or

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might be impacted from the site. They are intended to give U.S. EPA a better overall environmental assessment of Sauget.

At the meeting between U.S. EPA, IEPA and Monsanto Chemical Company, each party was expected to exchange information pertinent to the site. Among information to be provided by U.S. EPA is the partial laboratory report; and, Monsanto was expected to provide information on site groundwater studies it had earlier performed.